GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1650
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
T.B. ERADICATION PROGRAMME
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considermg to launch a TB eradication programme with the help of World Bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)&(b) The Government has already launched a revised TB Control Programme (RNTCP) based on WHO recommended DOTS strategy in the entire country. Under RNTCP diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 78.00 lakh patients on DOTS treatment, averting more than 14.00 lakh deaths. Every month more than 1.0 lakh patients are placed on DOTS. In 2006 alone, India placed around 14.00 lakhs cases on DOTS, more than any country in a single year in the world. Overall performance of RNTCP has been excellent with cure/treatment completion rate consistently above 85% and death rate reduced to less than 5%. To increase accessibility of the masses to the facilities provided under the Programme, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy